

## DESPERATE FIGHTING.

### Constant Engagements in the Hills About Ladysmith.

#### Boers Holding Their Trenches Under Terrible Fire.

#### Fire of Fifty Big Guns on General Cronje's Army.

#### BULLER ADVANCING ON LADYSMITH.

Hostilities, Ladysmith, Feb. 21.—There was fighting all Monday and Tuesday and it still continues since early this morning. Our efforts have been to dislodge the British from their position. Last night a body of British troops tried to cross the river, but were beaten back with heavy loss. Our loss slight.

#### ALARMED.

London, Feb. 23.—The Transvaal government is reported seriously alarmed over the defeat of the Boers at Kimberley. The newspapers are most reticent, but the Standard and Diggers News claims that Cronje's movement is beneficial, as it increases the mobility of the burghers army, enabling it to conduct more effective operations on a carefully prepared plan. There are persistent reports that the seat of the Free State government is being moved to Wynburg. It is said 6,000 burghers have been sent from Ladysmith to Bloemfontein.

#### EVERY SKIRMISH.

Arundel, Feb. 22.—Colonel Henderson's squadron, Inkhilek, with two guns, reconnoitered westward to Moolfontein farm on the direct road to Colenso and Hanover. They got close to the Boers in the hills and were fired on. They quickly got the guns in position and shelled the hills. Eventually the Boers were driven out, retreating northward, when they came under the fire of two other guns supported by a company of Australians, after the British western post on Dragon hill. Colonel Henderson proceeded to Moolfontein farm, which he now occupies. British patrols from Hanover also came out that far. The Boers are not in great force. They have been persistently followed all day and have withdrawn considerable distance northward.

#### CRONJE MUST SURRENDER.

London, Feb. 23.—Every hour is expected to bring news of Cronje's surrender. With fifty guns bearing upon his devoted band, within a terribly short range, 2,000 yards, surrender or utter annihilation can be the only result unless all reports of the strength of the Boer reinforcements are wrong. Even an unexpectedly strong attack on Lord Roberts' lines of communication could seriously, according to experts, materially alter the result.

The severe losses incurred by General Kelly-Kenny on Sunday have produced some adverse criticism, but it is pointed out that he fought less furiously than would have given the Boers an opportunity of entrenching themselves and perhaps effect further flight to a more advantageous position.

Buller's progress toward Ladysmith is now so slow that it scarcely appears to the public interest. General White appears to be endeavoring to assist Buller by vigorous bombardment. Advice received at Cape Town yesterday said it was reported that the British were gradually driving the Boers out of northern Cape Colony.

#### CHECKED THE TUGRA.

Colenso, Natal, Feb. 21.—The British crossed the Tugra over a pontoon bridge north of Hlangwani, and now occupy Fort Wylie. While the naval brigade was bombarding Gribler's Kloof, the Boers big cresting gun replying yesterday after the occupation of Colenso, a small party of Thornycroft's horse crossed the river but were driven back by fire from the trenches. The Boer guns are still shelling the relieving force from the hills south of Ladysmith, but the impression is spreading that they are merely covering the retreat of the entire Boer force.

Buller's casualties on Tuesday and Wednesday were: Killed—Captain Cresswell, Lieutenant Keith-Matson and Perry. Some serious light infantry, and nine men. Wounded—Six officers and ninety-seven men. Missing—Five men.

#### AMBITIOUS REFUSED.

Pearlberg Drift, Orange Free State, Tuesday, Feb. 23.—Yesterday General Cronje said for twenty-four hours armistice in order to bury the dead. Kitchener refused. A little later came another message with the word that if the British were inhuman enough to refuse an armistice for the purpose of burying the dead, Cronje saw no other resource but to surrender. Upon receipt of the message Kitchener proceeded to the Boer laager to arrange a capitulation, but was met by a messenger who announced that Cronje said he would fight until he died.

The bombardment of the Boer position with 100 tons of shells was renewed. Rapidly fired shells raised great clouds of green smoke, completely filling the bed of the river. Our shells searched every bush and every ravine and river bed.

## PUERTO RICO TARIFF.

### House Debating Revenue Bill For the Island Colony.

#### More Testimony Produced in the Idaho Mine Troubles.

#### Defense in the Clark Case Rest For the Present.

#### YAGUI INDIAN PRISONERS.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The debate on the Puerto Rican tariff bill resumed today. Payne (R. N. Y.) floor leader of the majority, gave notice that on Monday he would move to close the general debate. Speaking of the tariff bill, Payne said it was impossible for those on his side of the house to express their views on the subject before the bill was voted. He said the bill was an exceedingly important measure that should be ample time to debate this important measure. For himself, he desired more light upon the subject before he voted.

Payne replied that there had been a general understanding that debate should run a week. He said the bill was an exceedingly important measure that should be ample time to debate this important measure. For himself, he desired more light upon the subject before he voted.

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## SENATE CROWDED TO HEAR DEBATE

### On the Question.

#### Anti-Imperialists Hold a Conference And Oppose Expansion.

#### President of Senate Francis's Petition From People of Puerto Rico.

#### DEMOCRATIC CLUBS TO MEET.

Washington, Feb. 23.—In anticipation of a lively debate on the question of the right of Puerto Rico to self-government, the Senate today was crowded to hear the debate.

The president of the Senate, Francis, laid before the Senate the following cablegram, addressed to him as president of the Senate, from San Juan, Puerto Rico:

"The people of Puerto Rico, in commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of Washington, request that the Senate, in a resolution, express its sympathy with the people of Puerto Rico in their struggle for self-government. Every day represents considerable loss, leading to total ruin."

The cablegram was read by the clerk. It was then referred to the committee on the subject of the petition.

The committee on the subject of the petition, which was composed of Messrs. Francis, Spooner, and Chandler, reported that they had no objection to the passage of the bill.

The bill was then passed by a vote of 74 yeas to 23 nays. The Senate then adjourned.

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